In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-15, 22-24, 28-39, 42-48, 50-56, 58-64, 66-72, 74-83, 93-98, and 100-106 without prejudice to Applicant.

Please amend claims 40, 41, 49, 57, 65, 73, 84, and 92 as indicated below in the complete claim listing.

The complete listing of all claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) follows below:

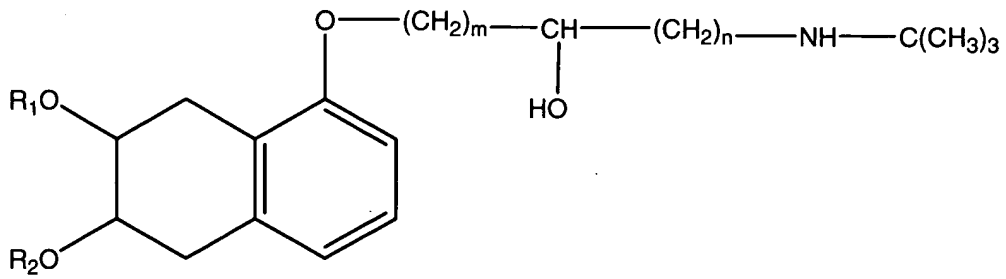
1. (Original) A method for treatment of pulmonary airway disease in a subject suffering from pulmonary airway disease comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a β-adrenergic inverse agonist to the subject to treat the pulmonary airway disease.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is selected from the group consisting of $\beta_2$-selective inverse agonists, and non-selective inverse agonists having inverse agonist activity against both $\beta_1$- and $\beta_2$-adrenergic receptors.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is a $\beta_2$-selective inverse agonist.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is selected from the group consisting of nadolol, bupranolol, butoxamine, carazolol, carvedilol, ICI-118,551, levobunolol, metoprolol, propranolol, sotalol, and timolol, and the salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is selected from the group consisting of nadolol and a compound of formula (I)

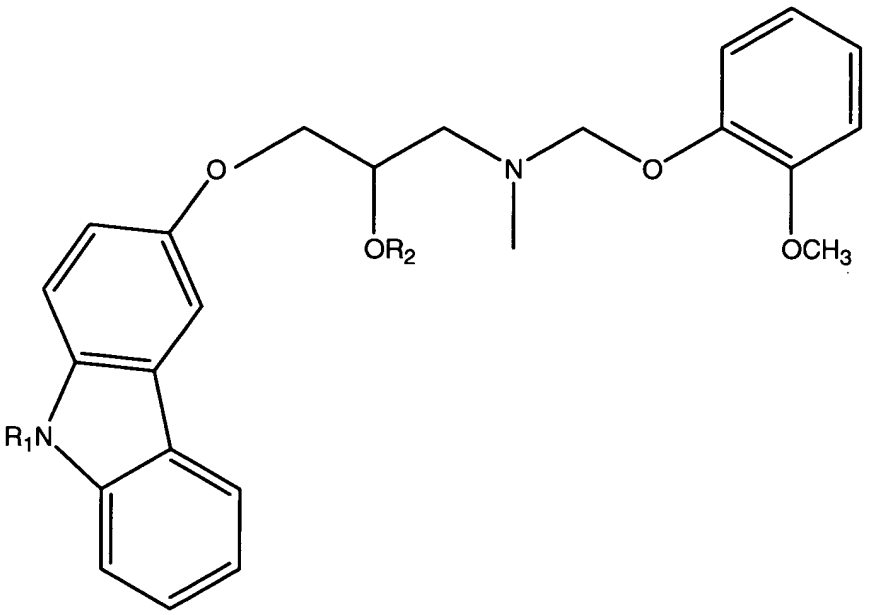



(I)

wherein $R_1$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, $R_2$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, and m and n are 1 to 3, with the proviso that where $R_1$ and $R_2$ are both hydrogen and m is 1, n is other than 1.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is nadolol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is selected from the group consisting of carvedilol and a compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein $R_1$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, $R_2$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, and $R_3$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, with the proviso that all of $R_1$, $R_2$, and $R_3$ are not all hydrogen.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is carvedilol.

9.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, sustained-release oral, parenteral, sublingual, buccal, insufflation, and inhalation.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is administered by the sustained-release oral route.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pulmonary airway disease is selected from the group consisting of asthma, bronchiectasis, bronchitis,

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Churg-Strauss syndrome, pulmonary sequelae of cystic fibrosis, emphysema, allergic rhinitis, and pneumonia.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the pulmonary airway disease is asthma.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the pulmonary airway disease is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the pulmonary airway disease is emphysema.

22.-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β-adrenergic inverse agonist is administered over time in a series of graduated doses starting with the lowest dose and increasing to the highest dose.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein, when the highest dose is reached, the β-adrenergic inverse agonist continues to be administered at that dose.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) nadolol in a quantity selected from the group consisting of 1 mg, 3 mg, 5, mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 30 mg, 50 mg, and 70 mg; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28.-39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently amended) A method for treatment of pulmonary airway disease in a subject suffering from pulmonary airway disease comprising administering to

the subject: (1) a therapeutically effective amount of a β-adrenergic inverse agonist and (2) a therapeutically effective amount of an additional agent selected from the group consisting of: a $\beta_2$-selective adrenergic agonist; a steroid; an anticholinergic drug; a xanthine compound; an anti-IgE antibody; a leukotriene modifier; and a phosphodiesterase inhibitor in order to treat the pulmonary airway disease.

41. (Currently amended). The method of claim 40 wherein the additional agent is a $\beta_2$-selective adrenergic agonist and the $\beta_2$-selective adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, bitolterol, clenbuterol, clorprenaline, dobutamine, fenoterol, formoterol, isoetharine, isoprenaline, levabuterol, mabuterol, metaproterenol, pirbuterol, ritodrine, salbutamol, salmeterol, terbutaline, and the salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

42.-48. (Cancelled).

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[48]] 40 wherein the additional agent is a steroid and wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of beclomethasone, budenoside, ciclesonide, flunisolide, fluticasone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, and triamcinolone, and the salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

50.-56. (Cancelled).

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[56]] 40 wherein the additional agent is an anticholinergic drug and wherein the anticholinergic drug is selected from the group consisting of ipratropium bromide, tiotropium bromide, and oxitropium bromide, and the salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

58.-64. (Cancelled).

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[64]] 40 wherein the additional agent is a xanthine compound and wherein the xanthine compound is selected from the group consisting of theophylline, extended-release theophylline, aminophylline, theobromine, enprofylline, diprophylline, isbufylline, choline theophyllinate, albifylline, arofylline, bamifylline and caffeine.

66.-72. (Cancelled).

73. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[72]] 40 wherein the additional agent is an anti-IgE antibody and wherein the anti-IgE antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a genetically engineered antibody that is derived from a monoclonal antibody.

74.-83. (Cancelled).

84. (Once amended) The method of claim [[83]] 40 wherein the additional agent is a leukotriene modifier and wherein the leukotriene modifier is selected from the group consisting of ibudilast, montelukast, pranlukast, and zafirlukast, and the salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

85.-91. (Cancelled).

92. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[91]] 40 wherein the additional agent is a phosphodiesterase IV inhibitor and wherein the phosphodiesterase IV inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of roflumilast and cilomilast, and the

salts, solvates, analogues, congeners, bioisosteres, hydrolysis products, metabolites, precursors, and prodrugs thereof.

93.-98 (Cancelled).

99. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a therapeutically effective amount of a β-adrenergic inverse agonist;

(b) a therapeutically effective amount of a second therapeutic agent effective to treat a pulmonary airway disease, the second therapeutic agent being selected from the group consisting of a $\beta_2$-selective adrenergic agonist, a steroid, an anticholinergic drug, a xanthine compound, an anti-IgE antibody, a leukotriene modifier, and a phosphodiesterase IV inhibitor; and

(c) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

100.-106. (Cancelled).